

Juniperus virginiana

Eastern Redcedar

Tried and True
Native Plant Selections
for the Mid-Atlantic

Eastern Redcedar's dense foliage provides excellent roosting/nesting cover for birds, and wildlife favor its fruit. This long-lived juniper, which is native to eastern North America,* was prized by Virginia colonists for its wood. Today, its wood is valued as a closet/chest lining; oils are distilled for use in fragrances; and the fruit gives gin its characteristic flavor.



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Tree	Male/Female Flowers, Foliage, Fruit, Tree, Bark
Height: 30–60 feet	
Spread: 8–25 feet	
Bloom Color: Red-purple	
Characteristics	
Conical to columnar, evergreen conifer with horizontal branching; usually dioecious	
Scale-like foliage varies from gray- to blue- to dark green; in winter, foliage may turn brownish	
Yellow-brown (male) to blue-green (female) cone-like flowers (strobili) from March to May	
Pale green to dark blue berry-like cones from July to March on female plants	
Exfoliating gray to red-brown, scented bark	
Attributes	
Tolerates most soil types, drought, heat, wind, salt, air pollution, and Black Walnut; no serious pests or diseases; deer seldom severely damage except for mature trees when food is scarce	
Winter interest	
Ethnobotanic uses; fruits may be harmful if eaten	
Provides food, shelter for small mammals & birds	
Growing and Maintenance Tips	Excellent Replacement for
Soil Requirements: Average, well-drained	<i>Taxus cuspidata</i> - Japanese Yew
Light Requirements: Sun	
Water Requirements: Dry, Moist	
To deter cedar-apple,-hawthorn,-quince rusts don't grow near alternate hosts, e.g., apple, serviceberry	
Use as a specimen, tall hedge, or windbreak or in rain gardens larger than 150 square feet	*In the Mid-Atlantic Region, it is native in DC, portions of MD and southeastern PA. It is common in DE and throughout VA except at the higher mountain elevations.
Hardiness: USDA Zones 4–9	

developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria

Images by Elaine Mills, Native Plant Garden, The Nature Conservancy; private garden, Arlington; and Glencarlyn Garden